

WRITTEN STATEMENT

World Vision

9.12 Strategic Action Plan to reduce the double burden of malnutrition in the South-East Asia Region 2016–2025

The WHO South-East Asia Region carries one of the world's highest burdens of child malnutrition. World Vision supports governments and communities across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Thailand through integrated nutrition programming to address the underlying causes of malnutrition. Recognising that nutrition outcomes are influenced by maternal health, infant feeding practices, hygiene, access to health services, household resilience and women's empowerment, World Vision promotes community-centred approaches that strengthen caregiver knowledge, improve household food security and support healthy child development.

Through initiatives like Timed and Targeted Counselling, Growth Monitoring and Promotion, Citizen Voice and Action, and the ENOUGH Campaign, we support Member States in community-level action that improves nutrition and wellbeing outcomes for women, children and adolescents. While the Strategic Action Plan has strengthened policy commitment, governance and regional collaboration, progress remains uneven and insufficient to achieve global nutrition targets. World Vision is concerned that persistent gaps in the collection, analysis and use of nutrition data continue to limit effective programme and policy responses. Without stronger investments in nutrition surveillance, routine information systems and data-driven action, millions of children remain at risk of irreversible developmental, cognitive, educational and health consequences associated with malnutrition.

World Vision therefore welcomes the extension of this Strategic Action Plan and urges Member States to prioritise five areas for accelerated action: scaling up integrated community-centred interventions for maternal and child nutrition; strengthening implementation and enforcement of policies to promote healthy food environments; investing in primary healthcare systems and workforce capacity; improving nutrition surveillance, routine data systems and evidence use; and expanding social and behaviour change communication, community engagement and social accountability mechanisms. Accelerating progress in these areas will be essential to prevent lifelong consequences of malnutrition and ensure that no child is left behind in achieving the 2030 nutrition targets.